contractual appointment. These civil suits have been disposed of by the High Court in favour of the Company.

The association has also filed a writ petition in the High Court of Gujarat for regularisation of service of contract employees. The petition is pending before the Court. Further action in this regard will be taken by the Company in accordance with the final orders of the Court, and rules and regulations of the Company.

Agricultural Farming in Kutch

*377. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Israel has developed an agro-technology to develop farming in desert;

(b) if so, whether any plan has been worked by Government to have agricultural farming in deserts of Kutch (Gujarat) and Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of crops and quantity likely to be produced; and

(e) whether any experiment is going on and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Land Resources is implementing a demonstration-project on Jojoba Plantation and Research in collaboration with "Association of the Rajasthan Jojoba Plantation and Research Project" (AJORP) through technical assistance from Israel. On behalf of the Government of Gujarat, the Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad have also made an agreement with an Israeli firm for transferring Israeli technology in Gujarat.

(c) The major components of the project being implemented in Rajasthan are:—

(i) Plantation of Jojoba including drip system,

(ii) Nursery raising for gap filling,

(iii) Dug cum bore Tubewell,

(iv) Green House/Mist Chamber, etc.

(d) and (e) Experiments conducted by Central Arid Zone Research Institute (Indian Council of Agricultural research), located at Jodhpur indicates that Jojoba—an oil shrub gives about 600 kg/ha yield. Potato and Tomato can be grown with saline water with a yield level of 44 and 26 tonnes per hectare respectively. Pomegranate, chillies, water-melon, ridge-gourd, long-gourd and round-gourd can also be grown under drip system with advantage. In Kutch and Bhuj area of Gujarat, some fodder grasses have also shown promise. Ber fruits are also being tried. Experiments on silvi-pastoral system are going on at Bhuj. A number of experiments are being conducted on various aspects of desert farming by Central Arid Zone research Institute and concerned State Agricultural Universities.

Setting up of LPG Import facility at Haldia

*378. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1785 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th June 1998 and state:

(a) whether clearance has been given by Government for setting up 600 TMTPA LPG import facility at Haldia;

(b) if so, the zero date for commissioning of the project and the tentative date of commencement of operation; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in clearing the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation has reported that the present expected zero date for commissioning of the project is October 2001.

(c) Does not arise.